



May 6, 2005

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer:

It is with great pleasure that the National Service-Learning Partnership endorses the **Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2005**. We believe this important legislation creates an environment in which schools and their community partners can proactively work together to streamline the delivery of academic, health and social services essential to students and families most in need of help.

We believe that community schools open the door to a multi-faceted education that allows students to become better learners, better workers and better citizens. This legislation gives more students the opportunity to participate in service-learning –a powerful form of service and hands-on learning in which students design projects to meet community needs as part of their academic and civic development.

Community schools that implement service-learning offer students the kind of balanced education Americans want. According to a poll conducted in the fall of 2000 by Roper Starch Worldwide, Americans believe that service-learning can help prepare young people for work, citizenship, and lifelong learning. Furthermore, service-learning elicits the kind of engagement that reinforces students' motivation to learn. When students apply new knowledge and skills to real challenges outside the classroom, they are far less likely to ask their teachers "Why do I have to learn this?"

This legislation will give more students the opportunity to bring learning to life. It moves us closer to realizing our goal to make high-quality service-learning a core element of the educational experience of every elementary, middle, and high school student in the United States.

Community schools exemplify a true commitment to addressing the needs of the whole child –a vital ingredient for student success. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to this legislation and look forward to helping in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Betsy McGee

Elizabeth A. McGee
Executive Director